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Ray trail begins today

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - The judge who will try James Earl Ray held four persons in contempt yesterday on charges they violated his guidelines restricting pre-trial publicity in the case.

Arthur J. Hanes, the attorney for the man charged with the assassination slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., two Memphis newspaper reporters and a private investigator hired by Hanes were held in contempt by Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle.

Battle ruled that comments by Hanes and the investigator, and carried in stories written by the reporters, were "extremely prejudicial and constitute a clear and present danger" to impaneling an impartial jury to try Ray.